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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Cancelled)

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Cancelled)

4.   (Cancelled)

5.   (Cancelled)

6.   (Cancelled)

7.   (Cancelled)

8.   (Currently amended) A method for receiving text messages in a telecommunications network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving an incoming call from a calling user device coupled to the telecommunications network to a called user device coupled to the telecommunications network;

sending an indication of the incoming call to the called user device, including an option to receive voice or text;

receiving a response from the called user device indicating that text is desired;

sending to the calling user device an indication that text is desired;

determining whether the calling user device will respond with text or voice:

in response to an indication that the calling user device will send text, receiving a first text message from the calling user device; and to receive voice or a text message in response to the incoming call;

receiving a voice message from a user device coupled to the

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~~telecommunications network;~~

~~converting the voice message to a text message corresponding to the voice message; and~~

sending the <u>first</u> text message to ~~a~~ <u>the called</u> user device.

9.   (Cancelled)

10.   (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~10~~ <u>8</u> wherein the <u>step of determining whether the calling user device will respond with voice or text includes checking</u> ~~direct text message is sent to the user device based upon~~ a user device profile.

11.   (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~10~~ <u>8</u> wherein <u>the step of determining whether the calling user will respond with voice or text includes receiving a response from the calling user device indicating whether the calling user device will respond in voice or text</u> ~~sending the direct text message includes sending one of an email, a facsimile, and an electronic message.~~

12.   (New) The method of claim 8 wherein the first text message is sent over a packet-based network.

13.   (New) The method of claim 8 wherein in response to an indication that the calling user device will send voice, receiving a voice message from the calling device and converting the voice message into the first text message.